

FRANK G. CARPENTER'S LETTER.  
**THE SAMARITANS IN 1910**  
A TALK WITH THEIR HIGH PRIEST, WHO CLAIMS  
TO BE DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM  
AARON, THE PROPHET.

A Visit to the Synagogue at Shechem and a Look at Its Manuscript Bible Over 3000 Years Old—An Unsatisfied American at Jacob's Well—On the Road to Galilee—Queer Features of Travel and Traffic—Where Abraham Farmed, and Where Salome Danced for John the Baptist's Head.

(Copyright, 1910, by Frank G. Carpenter.)  
NABLOUS, Palestine, Dec. 18.—I have just had an interview with a lineal descendant of Aaron, the high priest of the Samaritans. He belongs to the tribe of Levi, who in ancient times were at the head of the priesthood, and claims to have a genealogical tree which traces his family from the time of Aaron to the present. His family has lived here for more than 3000 years and high priest has succeeded high priest until this man took the position at the age of 15, his childhood uncle, a high priest, having died. That was 62 years ago, and Jacob has been high priest ever since. He is now almost 80, and he looks, I imagine, as Aaron or Moses may have looked in the latter part of their lives. He is of a fair height, he has the face and form of a prophet. His long beard falls down upon his chest and his scholarly face is refined and spiritual looking.

The oldest of Bible manuscripts. I met Jacob here at Nablos, on the site of old Shechem, within a stone's throw of the well where Christ talked with the Samaritan woman. It is not far from a farm which Abraham owned, and about on the spot where Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel together and read them the law of Moses. Our conversation took place in the heart of the city in the synagogue of the Samaritans. I had to go through a maze of narrow streets, and through a maze of passages, to reach it. I had an interview with the high priest, and as we talked together he showed me the five books of Moses as they were written by him, the son of Ben Hassen, and the son of Ben Hassen, who, I remember, was one of the two sons of Aaron by Elisheba, his wife. The high priest tells me that these five manuscripts were written only 12 years after the Israelites came into the Holy Land, and that they are now 3575 years old. They are the oldest Bible manuscripts in existence. They are written in the Hebrew of the times of Moses, upon long sheets of parchment about two feet in length and one in width, and are arranged as they are read. The ink is still plain, and the letters distinct, although the parchment is yellow with age. The manuscript is treasured by the Samaritans, being kept in a brass case inlaid with gold. It is said to have been dug up about 300 years ago, and it has formed a subject of controversy among oriental scholars. The Samaritans believe that it was written by the grandson of Aaron, as the high priest here claims; but the Jews reject it as false, denouncing the Samaritans as pagan outcasts from the children of Israel.

The Samaritans of 1910. I was surprised to find that there were any Samaritans living. I supposed that they had been swallowed up by the Mohammedans, and other Syrians who have absorbed everything in Palestine excepting the Jews. I find, however, that there are about 200 in Nablos, and that they practice the same religion as they had when Christ came. They annually celebrate the feast of the Passover, and Pentecost on Mount Gerizim. These feasts are different from those of the latter-day Jews. At the time of Christ the Feast of the Passover was eaten reclining and as though at the end of a journey rather than at the beginning.

The Samaritans eat their Passover with their shoes bound upon their feet and staves in their hands as though ready to start out on their wanderings in the wilderness. They do this on the top of the mountain, camping in tents. They smear the blood of the sacrifice upon the tents to commemorate the passage of the angel of death over the houses of Israel. They dress in white garments, and they kill the animals which are burnt according to the methods which were in use when Aaron lived. The sacrifice consists of buck lambs, each of which is carefully examined that it may be without wound or blemish. At a given signal the throats of the lambs are cut, and at the same time some of the blood is caught in a tin cup and smeared over the tent. As the blood flows the people shout out the words "There is but one God," and they shout this sentence again and again. At the same time there is a service, beginning with a hymn praising Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and followed by a prayer of thanksgiving. The meat for the sacrifice is cooked over a fire in the earth. As soon as the animals are killed they are skinned and the wool is pulled off. The entrails are removed and salted. Then a pole is thrust through each lamb, and it is laid on the hot coals of a fire made in a trench. The meat is then covered

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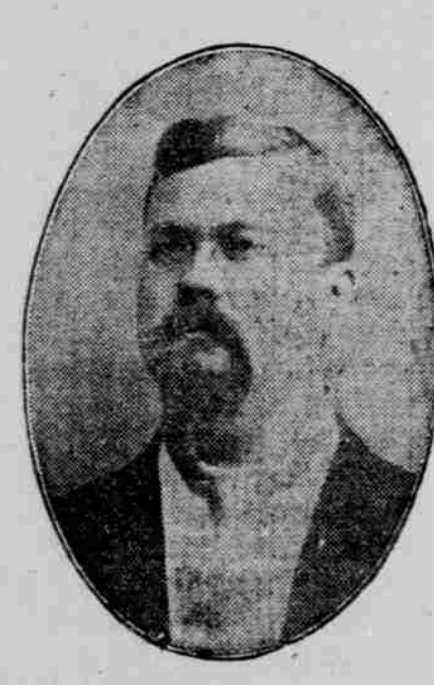
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### "MARRYING NAT" MAY BE DIVORCED AGAIN

Goodwin Says He's Good Man and That He's Not Yet in John Drew's Class.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Rumors are afloat that Nat Goodwin, actor, has been sued for divorce by his fourth wife, who was Edna Goodrich, the actress. While these rumors are denied, it is admitted that Nat and Miss Goodrich are estranged. A divorce action may develop later on. The incident which is said to have led to the trouble between Goodwin and his fourth wife is declared to have occurred in Toronto, Canada, last Thanksgiving day. A friend of Miss Goodrich tells the story as follows: "Mr. Goodwin had gone to Toronto several days previous to the holiday to avoid unpleasant interviews on the subject of his connection with the mine promoting firm of which Graham Rice was the active partner. He had secluded himself to a certain extent and had written letters to his wife that indicated that he was bored to death at having to remain so long away from New York.

Unexpected Call. "Miss Goodrich, who lived with her husband's frame of mind and decided to give him a pleasant surprise. She prepared an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner and, accompanied by a maid, boarded a train that set her down in Toronto on Thanksgiving day. She had given no hint of her coming and arrived at Mr. Goodwin's hotel unannounced. She went to the door of the actor's suite and knocked. "What she discovered when the door was opened has not yet become known except to her most trusted friends. It is all in the papers in the case which are in the hands of her attorney, Herman L. Roth. Miss Goodrich returned to New York next morning.

Nat Says He's Good. "I am a good man. I am not a gambler, or a villain, or a gay Lothario. I

### FARMINGTON GETS THREE INCH SNOW

Farmington, N. M., Dec. 31.—During the past 48 hours about three inches of snow has fallen, with mercury below freezing most of the time. Edwin, the grown son of Frank Allen, proprietor of the Grand hotel, who was thrown from a vicious horse and severely injured about the head, is improving.

The "Black Knight" play will be put on at the opera house by local talent from the high school tonight. The Manager of Farmington has elected the following officers: A. E. Skelton, W. M.; Chas. C. Mumma, S. W.; F. H. Telkamp, J. W.; P. M. Pierce, treasurer; R. P. Hopkins, secretary; H. E. Myers, tyler. The officers appointed were: John J. Graham, S. D.; A. C. Hubbard, J. D.; C. M. Hubbard, S. S.; M. C. Picken, J. S.; R. U. Waldra, ven, chaplain. A. L. Davis, W. W. Smith and J. C. Strawn, auditing committee.

Among recent additions to Farmington's population are J. H. Manes, ex-county judge and banker of Dumas, Tex., and his family; L. B. Smith and family of Clovis, N. M.; and recently William Blakham, of Narvada, N. M., who also brought his family. Each of these families have located in Farmington permanently. For pains in the side or chest dampen a piece of flannel with Chamberlain's Liniment and bind it on over the seat of pain. There is nothing better. For sale by all dealers.

### BUYS CATTLE AND RANCH AT CLIFTON

Clifton, Ariz., Dec. 31.—A big cattle deal was consummated here when McBest, of Arlington, Colo., through J. C. Gatti of this city, purchased 6,000 head of cattle from the Boyle Bros. He is shipping the cattle from here to Colorado. Mr. McBest also purchased a ranch in the northern part of the county and expects to make Arizona his home for a portion of the time.

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### GASTRITIS KILLS VALUABLE CATS

If you have a valuable cat, it is in danger, according to an expert cat fancier—gastritis is killing the cats and even some dogs. Says Miss Mabel E. Selwyn, show manager of the Santa Barbara cat show: "There is raging all over the country a terrible epidemic of that most fatal of all diseases to cats—gastritis. The symptoms are somewhat the same as those of poison, and many persons may have been misled by them. But cats that have never been near a show—short-haired as well as long-haired, also dogs—are dropping off on all sides from the disease after a few hours' illness.

"The only remedy for the disease, so far as known, is buttermilk, which does not always help, except where the germ has not yet taken hold. I should recommend everyone owning a cat, even though it appears perfectly well, to give it buttermilk, even forcing it down the cat's throat, twice a day to the extent of two or three liquid ounces as it will, as a rule, make them immune from the disease.

"I have saved three of my own valuable cats by this means. I hope, for the good of the cat fanciers, you will have this letter published."

### TO GIVE A BENEFIT FOR THE BASEBALL FUND

The "Chimes of Normandy" will be produced for the benefit of the baseball club. Rehearsals will be resumed next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock at the chamber of commerce building. More yonux people are needed for the chorus. The affair will be given about the middle of February at the El Paso theater.

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